

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed March 5, 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant has canceled claims 4, 6, 12-13, 15, 17-18, 20, 22, and amended claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, and 25-27. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, 14, 16, 19, 21, and 23-32 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. The Examiner asserts that the changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) do not apply to this as the application was not filed on or after November 29, 2000. Applicant respectfully points out that the application presently being examined is a continued prosecution application (CPA) filed on September 26, 2002. "The filing date of a continued prosecution application is the date on which a request on a separate paper for an application under this paragraph is filed." 37 CFR 1.53(d)(2).

2. The Examiner rejects claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rekhter et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,339,595).

As to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Rekhter discloses a first port, inherent in the edge router PE2 disclosed by Rekhter, for receiving a packet having a first label, wherein the tags disclosed by Rekhter are read on the first label.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Rekhter clearly discloses that the edge router PE2 adds the tags that the Examiner reads on the first label. Col. 6, line 61, through col. 7, line 4. Clearly the port of the edge router PE2 cannot receive a packet having a first label when that first label is added by the edge router PE2.

As to claim 8, applicant has amended the claim to add the limitations of receiving a packet having a label and routing the packet based on an association between the label and one of the tables. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim as amended is distinguished from the disclosure of Rekhter for the same reasons as claim 1.

As to claim 16, applicant has amended the claim to add the limitations of receiving a packet having a label and routing the packet based on an association between the label and one of the tables. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim as amended is distinguished from the disclosure of Rekhter for the same reasons as claim 1.

As to claim 26, applicant has amended the claim to add the limitation of receiving a packet including a label. A routing table is identified from the label. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim as amended is distinguished from the disclosure of Rekhter for the same reasons as claim 1.

As to claims 2 and 9, the only VPN-specific table disclosed by Rekhter is a Forwarding Information Base (FIB). This does not disclose a route table as claimed.

As to claims 3, 10, and 31-32, applicant relies on the patentability of the parent claims.

As to claims 4, 11, 15, 20, and 27, applicant relies on the patentability of the parent claims.

As to claim 5, applicant relies on the patentability of the parent claim.

As to claims 6 and 28, applicant relies on the patentability of the parent claim.

As to claims 12 and 17, the claims are cancelled.

As to claims 7, 13-14, 18-19, and 22-23, applicant relies on the patentability of the parent claim.

As to claim 21, the Examiner does not indicate specifically how Rekhter discloses each and every limitation of the claim.

As to claim 21, the Examiner reads the edge router PE2 of Rekhter on a first edge router, either of routers P1 or P2 on a backbone router, and the edge router PE1 on a second edge router. However, Rekhter fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claim. Routers P1 and P2 of Rekhter are not "configured to receive the modified packet and route the modified packet based on a route table associated solely with the label, from among one or more separate route tables associated with different labels." The object of the invention disclosed by Rekhter is that routers P1 and P2 do not "maintain the VPN-specific information." Col. 6, lines 57-60.

As to claim 24, the Examiner asserts that it is inherent that P1 and P2 have routing tables. Applicant respectfully submits that it is not inherent

that P1 and P2 have a second routing table. Rather, Rekhter's disclosure that routers P1 and P2 do not "maintain the VPN-specific information" teaches away from a second route table in the backbone router. Col. 6, lines 57-60.

As to claims 25 and 29-30, applicant relies on the patentability of the parent claim.

Conclusion

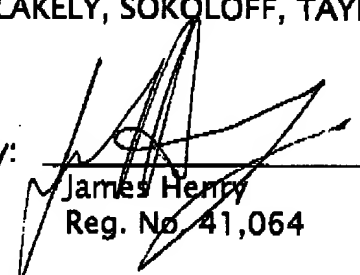
In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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